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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/482,872	01/14/2000	Hitoshi Yanagawa	862-3206	7614

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/482,872

Applicant(s)

YANAGAWA, HITOSHI

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 3, line 7, "claim 1" should read as "claim 2". Claim 3 recites a printer control computer, which is not described in claim 1, but rather in claim 2. The Office recommends applicant to make an appropriate correction to avoid lack of antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-5, 10-12, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6473192 to Kidani. Regarding claim 1, the Kidani reference discloses a method and apparatus for displaying messages corresponding to the type of the errors generate by the printers. Figure 2 of First Embodiment of Kidani discloses a Printing Apparatus (reference #300) and Computer (reference #100). Printing apparatus includes a storage memory RAM 303 for storing information data. The CPU 301 notifies the data processing (computer) of the determined type of the error. Hence, the user can promptly perform an optimum action corresponding to the cause of the generated error for printing apparatus by confirming the

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contents of the error generated; see col. 10, lines 25-29, and col. 12, lines 53-60 for more details. Figure 2 also shows an Interface Link (reference 200) for sending and receiving various kinds of data communication controlled by interface circuit 108a and 305a between Computer 100 and Printing Apparatus 300; see col. 10, lines 9-17. The printing apparatus as described also includes an Operation Panel unit for displaying error messages; see col. 9, lines 26-29. The Kidani reference discloses all the limitations as recited in claim 1.

2. Regarding claim 2, Figure 2 of Kidani further discloses a Printing Unit 307 (engine), which is incorporated into the Printing Apparatus 300 as described above. A printer control unit (printer controller) 400 controls the entire Laser Beam Printer main body 300, and analyzes character information from the host Computer 100, see col. 9, 29-32. Inherently, the Printing Apparatus 300 is a printer itself.

3. Regarding claim 3, the printing apparatus also capable of analyzing the nature of a problem; see col. 4, lines 56-57. The printing apparatus as described in claim 1 above, which also includes an Operation Panel unit for displaying error messages; see col. 9, lines 26-29.

4. Regarding claim 4, since the printing unit (engine), RAM 303 for storing means, and Interface Link are incorporated as one Printing Apparatus 100 (Printer), therefore, it meets all the limitations as recited in claim 4; see Figure 2 for more details.

5. Regarding claim 5, Figure 3 of First Embodiment of Kidani shows a diagram illustrating the configuration of the error detail table secured in the ROM 302 shown in Figure 2. The error detail table includes "error code", "error title", "action contents" and "person to be notified" items, and is configured by making the error code a key. Operator can take an appropriate action to eliminate the errors according to the "action contents" in Figure 3. These errors are displaying on the display unit (Operation Panel) as described from claim 3 above.

6. Regarding claims 10 & 17-18. Claims 10 & 17-18 recite the limitations that included in claim 1. Claims 10 & 17-18 are rejected for the same basis as described in claim 1 above (that is, being anticipated by the First Embodiment of Kidani).

7. Regarding claims 11. Claim 11 recites the limitations that included in claim 2. Claim 2 is rejected for the same basis as described in claim 2 above (that is, being anticipated by the First Embodiment of Kidani).

8. Regarding claim 12. Claim 12 recites the limitations that included in claim 3. Claim 3 is rejected for the same basis as described in claim 3 above (that is, being anticipated by the First Embodiment of Kidani).

9. Regarding claims 19-20, Figure 2 of Kidani also shows a storage medium RAM 103 that incorporated into computer 100 for storing computer program.

10. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6400462 to Hille. Regarding claim 23, Hille discloses a printer service tool for detecting and correcting printers' errors. Figure 1 shows a printer service tool is connected to the printer and portable computer. The printer service tool's software further includes a Main Form 70 as shown in Figure 4 which stores in portable computer 12, see col. 6, lines 56-60. Main Form further includes a storage for HTML files (inherently includes Internet Address), which contains detailed information about the failure of the printers and also provides a suggested fix; see col. 6, lines 56-60, and col. 7, lines 25-30. Once an appropriate HTML file is found for the particular printers' problems/errors, it will be then outputted to the portable computer or to the display unit 20 of printer service tool in Figure 1. The Hille reference discloses all the limitations as recited in claim 23.

11. Regarding claim 24, Figure 1 shows a printer service tool is connected to the printer and a portable computer.

12. Regarding claim 25, Hille discloses HTML files indicate type of problems and solution to resolve such problems, see col. 7, lines 25-30.

13. Regarding claim 26, HTML files can be inherently includes problems that requires maintenance by a serviceman and a problem which can be eliminated by a users. Figure 6 shows an example of a problem that contains in the HTML files. It shows an error code (Internet Jam)

and a solution for resolving such problem. Other problems can be more complicated and requires maintenance by a serviceman.

14. Claims 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6400462 to Hille. Regarding claim 27, Hille discloses a printer service tool for detecting and correcting printers' errors. Figure 1 shows a printer service tool is connected to the printer and portable computer. The printer service tool's software further includes a Main Form 70 as shown in Figure 4 which stored in portable computer 12, see col. 6, lines 56-60. Main Form further includes a storage for HTML files (inherently includes Internet Address), which contains detailed information about the failure of the printers and also provide a suggested fix; see col. 6, lines 56-60, and col. 7, lines 25-30. Once an appropriate HTML file is found for the particular printers' problems/errors, it will be then outputted to the portable computer or to the display unit 20 of printer service tool in Figure 1. A portable computer 12 inherently provided an inputting means (by means of keyboard). Hille also discloses the HTML files are store locally on portable computer 11, but can be periodically updated from information stored on the Internet. It is known in the art in order to update information from the web requires Internet connections; therefore, Internet connection is inherently included in the Hille's disclosure.

15. Regarding claim 28, Figure 1 shows a printer service tool is connected to the printer and a portable computer.

16. Regarding claim 29, Figure 6 shows an example of a problem that contains in the HTML files. It shows an error code (Internet Jam) and a solution for resolving such problem. For simplicity, Hille only shows a simple example (Internet Jam) to illustrate the invention. It is known to one of ordinary skill in the art that the HTML files contain problems that could be more complicated and requires maintenance by a serviceman.

17. Regarding claims 30-31, Hille discloses the PC service tool software reads the control panel display of printer 11. The contents of the display are compared with a list of possible display messages. If a match is found, the PC service tool software points the integrated Web Browser to the corresponding HTML pages that describe the printer error as well as provide fix information. Hille also discloses these HTML pages can be downloaded from the Internet, which later stored in the storage memory; see col. 6, lines 47-55 for more details. Hille provides an advantage of downloading and storing the problems/fix solution from the Internet for latter use, which further reduce the time and labor cost of determining and correcting the printers' errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani and U.S. Patent No. 6430711 to Sekizawa. Claims 6-7 depend upon independent claim 1, which is

being anticipated by the invention of Kidani as described above. As to claims 6-7, Kidani do not disclose expressly the method and apparatus to determine countermeasure specifying computer is a service depot computer if a problem is one requires maintenance by a serviceman, and it is a customer support computer if the problem is one capable of being eliminated by operator endeavor without requiring assistance of a serviceman. Sekizawa discloses a system and method for monitoring the state of a plurality of machines connected via a computer network. Figure 1 shows a printer is connected to a computer through the use of communication network. Sekizawa further discloses table error logs for displaying error messages in Figure 20. A fatal error message from Figure 20 requires maintenance by serviceman, and warning error message, which can be corrected by the operators (For example, paper jam error can be corrected by operator simply by removing the jammed paper). Also see Ninth Embodiment in col. 5, lines 32-49 for more information regarding mechanical failure and normal printing failure. Sekizawa and Kidani are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for correction/elimination of printers' errors. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add an additional fatal error message, which requires maintenance by serviceman, as per teachings of Sekizawa to the error log table of Kidani (Figure 3). By adding this additional error message to the error log of Kidani, the computer 100 from Figure 2 of Kidani can be represented as Depot Computer and Service Computer. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to eliminate the printers' errors in short amount of time and provide efficiency in printing by displaying appropriate error messages so the user can promptly perform an optimum action corresponding to the cause of the generated error for the printing apparatus by confirming the contents of the error generated, col. 12, lines

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56-60 of Kidani. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekizawa with Kidani to obtain the invention as specified in claims 6-7.

19. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani, and U.S. Patent No. 6400462 to Hille. Claim 8 depends upon independent claim 1, which is being anticipated by the invention (First Embodiment) of Kidani as described above. As to claim 8, First Embodiment of Kidani does not disclose expressly a communication network is the Internet communication network, and the identifying information of countermeasure specifying computer is an Internet mail address. Hille discloses a printer service tool for detecting and correcting printers' errors. Figure 1 shows a printer service tool is connected to the printer and portable computer. Hille further discloses printer service tool's software further includes a Main Form 70 as shown in Figure 4 which stores in portable computer 12, see col. 6, lines 56-60. Main Form further includes a storage for HTML files (inherently includes Internet Address), which contains detailed information about the failure of the printers and also provides a suggested fix; see col. 6, lines 56-60, and col. 7, lines 25-30. Once an appropriate HTML file is found for the particular printers' problems/errors, it will be then outputted to the portable computer or to the display unit 20 of printer service tool in Figure 1. Hille further discloses the HTML files can be updated over time by simply downloading the latest HTML files from a remote web site (it is known in the art "web site" is part of the Internet communication network as recited in claim 8); see col. 2, lines 55-63. Kidani and Hille are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for printers' errors determination/corrections. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add an HTML files (including Internet Mail

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Address) as an identifying information regarding printers' errors to the invention of Kidani. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a better/quicker solution to eliminate printers' errors by accessing HTML pages as per teachings of Hille. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hille with Kidani (First and Second embodiments) to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

20. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani, and to U.S. Patent No. 6430711 to Sekizawa. Claim 9 depends upon independent claim 1, which is being anticipated by the invention (First Embodiment) of Kidani as described above. As to claim 9, First Embodiment of Kidani does not disclose expressly plurality of image forming apparatuses is connected to the countermeasure specifying computer. Sekizawa discloses a system and method for monitoring the state of a plurality of machines (printers) connected via a computer network. See Figure 1 for more details. Figure 1, reference 2A shows two printers connected to the computer, which connected to the Internet. Kidani and Sekizawa are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for detecting and correcting of printers' errors. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to connected plurality of image forming apparatus (printers) to a countermeasure specifying computer (computer) as per teachings of Sekizawa to the invention of Kidani. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enhance communication between multiple printers and computer, and to provide better access to multiple printers from a single computer, and to reduce computer resources by having one computer controlling multiple

printers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekizawa with Kidani to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

21. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani and U.S. Patent No. 6430711 to Sekizawa. Claims 12-13 recite the same limitations as in claims 6-7, therefore, it will be rejected for the same basis as for claim 6-7 as described above.

22. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani. Claim 15 recites the same limitations as in claim 8; therefore, claim 15 is rejected for the same basis as for claim 8 as described above.

23. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani, and to U.S. Patent No. 6430711 to Sekizawa. Claim 16 recites the same limitations as in claim 9, therefore, claim 16 is rejected for the same basis as for claim 9 as described above.

24. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidani, and U.S. Patent No. 6400462 to Hille. Regarding claim 21, which depends upon independent claim 1 (which is being anticipated by Kidani as described). However, Kidani do not disclose expressly the specifying information includes a plurality of Internet addresses corresponding to the types of problems. Hille discloses a printer service tool for correcting the printers' errors by storing plurality of HTML files in a storage medium, which corresponding to the errors generated by the printers. See Figure 4 and corresponding description in col. 6, lines 47-55, and col. 7, lines 25-

30. Once a match is found for the particular printers' errors, the service software by Hille uses the integrated Web Browser to read HTML files stored locally on the system in HTML files of Figure 4. The HTML files contain detailed information about the failure and also provide a suggested fix. Hille and Kidani are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for printers' errors correction/elimination. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the printer service tool of Hille to the invention of Kidani. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been easy to implement and provide a better/quicker solution for printers' errors by accessing stored HTML files, which corresponding to the problems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hille with Kidani to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

25. Regarding claim 22, since claim 22 recites the same limitations as in claim 21, therefore, it will be rejected for the same basis as described in claim 21.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6078400 to Mizutani.

U.S. Patent No. 6362894 to Shima

U.S. Patent No. 6567175 to Lee

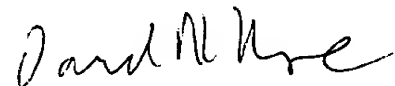
U.S. Patent No. 6317823 to Wakai et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-5397 for regular communications and (703)308-5397 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

tp
August 11, 2003



DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600